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United Nations

Commission for Social Development

Report on the forty-third session (20 February 2004 and 9-18 February 2005)

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Summary

At its forty-third session, the Commission for Social Development considered two topics under its agenda and multi-year programme of work: the priority theme, "Review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly"; and the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups.

The Commission held a two-day high-level segment on 10 and 11 February 2005 devoted to the 10-year review of the World Summit for Social Development. It adopted the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development and, as mandated by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the Declaration will be transmitted to the high-level plenary of the Assembly, through the Council, as a contribution to the review of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit, inter alia, reaffirmed that the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Summit and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels and recognized that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent, people-centred approach to development.

As part of its high-level segment, the Commission held three simultaneous round tables on each of the core issues addressed by the Summit, namely, poverty eradication, promotion of full employment and fostering social integration. The summary of these round tables by the Chairman of the Commission is contained in the present report. The summaries by the Chairs of the relevant round tables are contained in annexes I to III to the present report.

Also under the priority theme, the Commission held two interactive panels on the review of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly. One was held with representatives of the International Labour Organization, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and the other was held with Executive Secretaries of the United Nations regional commissions. The summaries prepared by the Chairs of the panels are contained in annexes IV and V to the present report.

Furthermore, under the priority theme, the Commission heard a presentation on the findings of the fourth meeting of the International Forum for Social Development. The subject of that meeting was "Equity, inequalities and interdependence".

The Commission also adopted a resolution on "Implementation of the social objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)", in which it decided that it should continue to give prominence to the social dimensions of NEPAD in discussing its future priority themes.

In connection with its review of plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, the Commission held its general debate and a panel discussion on youth in the context of the 10-year review of the World Programme of

Action for Youth and the upcoming five-year review of the Millennium Development Goals. The tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action provides an opportunity to review the global situation of young people and to reaffirm efforts to address priority areas. A panel discussion, "Working with Young People on Common Goals", was held. The Chairman's summary of the discussion is contained in annex VI to the present report.

Regarding older persons, during its general debate the Commission heard calls for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing. With regard to the family, numerous countries described activities related to the recent observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

As to persons with disabilities, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of two draft resolutions. In the first, on further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights, the Commission recommends that the Council decide to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development through 31 December 2008 to further the promotion and monitoring of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and request the Special Rapporteur to submit an annual report.

In the second draft resolution, on the comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, the Commission recommends that the Council request the Commission for Social Development to continue to contribute to the process of negotiation of a draft convention, welcome the contributions of the Special Rapporteur to the process of elaboration of a draft convention, request the Special Rapporteur to contribute further to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and invite bodies, organs and entities of the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations, national disability and human rights institutions and independent experts, to continue their active participation and contributions to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/270 B, in which the Assembly requested each functional commission to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, the Commission adopted a decision in which it decided that beginning with its forty-fifth session, its work will be organized in a series of two-year action-oriented implementation cycles, alternating with a review segment and a policy segment. It further decided that in its sessions, the Commission will also continue to review plans and programmes of action pertaining to social groups, including in relation to the priority theme. Finally, the Commission decided that at its forty-fourth session, it should further consider its methods of work, including the nature of its outcomes, the inclusion of emerging issues within its programme of work and the choice of themes for the 2007/2008 cycle.

Concerning the agenda item entitled "Programme questions and other matters", the draft programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007 and the programme performance and implementation for the biennium 2002-2003 for the Division for Social Policy and Development were presented to the Commission for its information. The Commission also took note of the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute

during the period 2003-2004 and nominated, for confirmation by the Economic and Social Council, two candidates for membership in the Board.

Finally, the Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve the provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-fourth session in 2006.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Outcome of the high-level plenary segment on the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

1. The Commission for Social Development, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/58 of 23 July 2004, requests the Council to transmit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, including to the high-level event of the Assembly on the review of the Millennium Declaration, the following Declaration, adopted by the Commission at its forty-third session:

Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development

We, the representatives of Governments gathering at the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development in New York on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen in 1995, in the context of the review of the outcome of the Summit and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and its contribution to the high-level plenary meeting for the review of the Millennium Declaration, to be held from 14 to 16 September 2005,

1. *Reaffirm* that the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Summit and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels;

2. *Recognize* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent, people-centred approach to development;

3. *Stress* that policies and programmes designed to achieve poverty eradication should include specific measures to foster social integration, including by providing marginalized socio-economic sectors and groups with equal access to opportunities;

4. *Reaffirm* that an employment strategy which aims to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity should constitute a fundamental component of any development strategy. We further reaffirm that macroeconomic policies should, inter alia, support employment creation. The social impact and dimension of globalization deserve further attention;

5. *Recommit* to promoting social integration by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just and that are based on the promotion and protection of all human rights, as well as on non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons;

6. *Reaffirm* the importance of promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and the access of all to primary health care as part of the effort to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration. We also recognize the continued need to address the impact of HIV/AIDS and other major infectious diseases on social and economic development;

7. *Recognize* that gender equality and the full participation of women in society are integral to building a society for all and must be at the centre of all economic and social development. We recommit ourselves to the urgent goal of achieving gender equality, to eliminating discrimination against women and to ensuring their full participation in all areas of life and at all levels;

8. *Reaffirm* that enhanced international cooperation and action at the national level are essential to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. We underline the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and strengthening of their democratic systems. We reaffirm that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that national policies have the leading role in the development process. We also reaffirm that good governance is essential to sustainable development;

9. *Recognize* that ten years after Copenhagen, despite the efforts made and progress achieved in economic and social development, the situation of many developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries as well as countries with economies in transition, requires further attention and action. We renew our commitment to support national efforts to promote a favourable environment for social and economic development, including the provision of technical and financial assistance, as appropriate, including through regional and other initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

10. *Dedicate* ourselves, a decade after Copenhagen, on the basis of our common pursuit of social development, to building solidarity, and renew our invitation to all people in all countries and in all walks of life, as well as the international community, to join in realizing our shared vision for a more just and equitable world. Therefore, we reaffirm our will and commitment to continue implementing the Declaration and Programme of Action, in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all.

B. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which it established the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, 58/132 of 22 December 2003 and 59/198 of 20 December 2004, as well as Assembly decision 59/521 of 20 December 2004 on the issue of the proposed supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,

Recalling its resolutions 2002/26 of 24 July 2002 and 2004/15 of 21 July 2004 on further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities,

Encouraged by the elaboration of a convention carried out in the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities,

Mindful of the need to adopt and implement effective strategies and policies to promote the rights and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in economic, social, cultural and political life on the basis of equality in order to achieve a society for all,

Noting with satisfaction that the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities play an increasingly important role in the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities,

Noting with grave concern that persons with disabilities are, in some circumstances, among the poorest of the poor and that they continue to be excluded from the benefits of development, such as education and access to gainful employment,

Encouraging States to further participate actively in international cooperation for the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development, and takes note of her report;[1]

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* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 39-42.

[1] See E/CN.5/2005/5.

2. *Urges* Governments, the Secretary-General, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, and invites relevant human rights treaty bodies, relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, multilateral development agencies and regional commissions, to create greater awareness and support for the further implementation of the Standard Rules, to work closely with the United Nations programme on persons with disabilities, to promote the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities and to improve consultation, exchange of information and coordination;

3. *Encourages* Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability in order to support the activities of the Special Rapporteur as well as new and expanded initiatives to strengthen national capacities for equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities;

4. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur through 31 December 2008 to further the promotion and monitoring of the Standard Rules in accordance with the provisions set down in section 4 of the Standard Rules, including the human rights dimensions of disability;

5. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development to take into account the general ideas contained in the proposed supplement to the Standard Rules[2] in the accomplishment of her mandate;

6. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to continue to participate in and contribute to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities;

7. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an annual report on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules to the Commission for Social Development.

Draft resolution II
Comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which the Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee, open to the participation of all Member States and observers of the United Nations, to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, based on the holistic approach in the work carried out in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development,

* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 43-47.

[2] E/CN.5/2002/4, annex.

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/14 of 21 July 2004 on a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

Welcoming the important contributions made so far to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee by all stakeholders,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for their full enjoyment to be guaranteed to persons with disabilities, without discrimination,

Convinced of the contribution that a convention will make in this regard, and welcoming the firm support of the international community for such a convention and the continued engagement in its elaboration,

Recognizing the strong commitment and the positive steps taken by Governments to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, including through collaboration and cooperation at the regional and international levels, with the aim of strengthening national capacities and supporting national efforts in order to improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities in all regions,

1. *Welcomes* the important progress achieved so far in the negotiation of a draft convention, and invites Member States and observers to continue to participate actively and constructively in the Ad Hoc Committee, with a view to an early conclusion of a draft text of a convention in order to present it to the General Assembly, as a matter of priority, for adoption;

2. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to contribute to the process of negotiation of a draft international convention, bearing in mind its area of expertise and the experience in the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[3] and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;[4]

3. *Welcomes* the contributions of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission to the process of elaboration of a draft convention, and requests the Special Rapporteur to contribute further to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, drawing from her experience in the monitoring of the Standard Rules by, inter alia, providing her views on the elements to be considered in a draft international convention;

4. *Requests* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through its Division for Social Policy and Development, to continue to support the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur and other relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, through, inter alia, the provision of information on issues related to a draft international convention and the promotion of awareness of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, from within existing resources;

5. *Underlines* the importance of strengthening cooperation and coordination between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in order to provide technical support

[3] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

[4] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendations I (IV).

to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/198 of 20 December 2004;

6. *Invites* bodies, organs and entities of the United Nations system to continue to participate, as appropriate, in the Ad Hoc Committee and to contribute to its work;

7. *Invites* non-governmental organizations, national disability and human rights institutions and independent experts with an interest in the matter to continue their active participation and contributions to the Ad Hoc Committee, and encourages the relevant bodies of the United Nations to continue to promote and support such active participation of civil society, in accordance with General Assembly decision 56/510 of 23 July 2002 and Assembly resolution 57/229 of 18 December 2002;

8. *Invites* Governments, civil society and the private sector to contribute to the voluntary fund established by the General Assembly to support the participation of non-governmental organizations and experts from developing countries, in particular from least developed countries, in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate widely to non-governmental organizations all available information on accreditation procedures, modalities and supportive measures for their participation in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, as well as the criteria for the financial assistance that is available through the voluntary fund;

10. *Stresses* the need for additional efforts to ensure reasonable accessibility to facilities and documentation at the United Nations for all persons with disabilities, in accordance with General Assembly decision 56/474 of 23 July 2002;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur to report to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fourth session, on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution III
Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, in which the Assembly requested each functional commission of the Economic and Social Council to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and to report to the Council no later than 2005 on the outcome of that examination,

Recalling also the primary responsibility of the Commission for Social Development for the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and

the review of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action[5] and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[6]

1. *Recognizes* that the organization of work of the Commission for Social Development should contribute to advancing the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action[5] and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[6] bearing in mind links with the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[7]

2. *Decides* that in order to fulfil its mandate, beginning with its forty-fifth session, the work of the Commission will be organized in a series of two-year action-oriented implementation cycles, which will include a review segment and a policy segment and that the Commission should strengthen the connection between its review of implementation and its policy recommendations;

3. *Also decides* that in its sessions, the Commission will also continue to review plans and programmes of action pertaining to social groups, including in relation to the priority theme;

4. *Decides further* that in its review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, the Commission should emphasize increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences, focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners, and sharing of best practices and lessons learned;

5. *Decides* that the Commission should invite all relevant stakeholders to continue to participate in its work at an appropriately high level;

6. *Invites* the regional commissions, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, to consider organizing regional meetings and activities, as necessary and appropriate, in order to contribute to the work of the Commission, in collaboration, as appropriate, with other regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and bodies and the regional offices of funds and programmes of the United Nations system;

7. *Decides* that the Commission at its forty-fourth session should consider further its methods of work, bearing in mind its own experiences and those of other functional commissions, and that its consideration should include the nature of its outcomes, negotiated and otherwise, the inclusion of emerging issues within its programme of work and the choice of themes for the 2007/2008 cycle;

8. *Also decides* that the Commission, at its forty-sixth session, should review the functioning of the two-year review and policy cycle, in order to ensure that this approach enhances the effectiveness and functioning of the Commission.

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[5] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[6] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[7] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

C. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

3. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fourth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-third session;

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fourth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fourth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Priority theme: review of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006);

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

   (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
      (i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;
      (ii) World Programme of Action for Youth;
      (iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
      (iv) Family issues, policies and programmes.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General: proposals for conducting the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
4. Programme questions and other matters.
5. Provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-fourth session.

D. Decision calling for action by the Council

4. The following decision adopted by the Commission is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Decision 43/101
Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development decides to nominate, for confirmation by the Economic and Social Council, the following six candidates for membership in the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development:

(a) Tony Atkinson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Anna Hedbord (Sweden), Amina Mama (Nigeria) and Adele Smith Simmons (United States of America) for a two-year term beginning on 1 July 2005 and expiring on 30 June 2007;

(b) Christian Comeliau (Belgium/France) and Asma Jahangir (Pakistan) for a four-year term beginning on 1 July 2005 and expiring on 30 June 2009.

The Commission also decides to postpone the nomination of one candidate to the Board to complete the term of office of a deceased member, Salma Sobhan (Bangladesh), for a term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Economic and Social Council and expiring on 30 June 2007.

E. Resolution and decision brought to the attention of the Council

5. The following resolution and decision adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 43/1
Implementation of the social objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[8] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[6]

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration[7] of 8 September 2000 and the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development[9] of 16 September 2002 and General Assembly resolution 57/7 of

[8] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

[9] See General Assembly resolution 57/2.

4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 58/233 of 23 December 2003, in which the Assembly, inter alia, welcomed the creation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and requested the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office to enable it to fulfil its mandate effectively,

Welcoming the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation, held in Ouagadougou in September 2004,

Welcoming the adoption of the chapter entitled "Sustainable development for Africa" in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[10]

Cognizant of the link between the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which the international community committed itself to addressing the special needs of Africa, and of the need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the Millennium Declaration,

Bearing in mind the reports of the Secretary-General of 20 June 1995[11] and 12 June 2001[12] submitted to high-level segments of the Economic and Social Council devoted to the consideration of the development of Africa,

Bearing in mind also that, while the primary responsibility for the development of Africa remains with African countries, the international community has a stake in it and in supporting the efforts of those countries in that regard,

Acknowledging the importance of various initiatives, such as the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process and its Tokyo International Conference on African Development-Asia — Africa Trade and Investment Conference, the Africa Action Plan of the Group of Eight, initiated in Genoa, Italy, as developed as the summit of the Group, held in Kananaskis, Canada in June 2002, and furthered at their subsequent summits, held in Evian, France, in 2003 and at Sea Island, United States of America, in 2004, as well as the Africa Partnership Forum in support of the implementation of the New Partnership, emphasizing, in this regard, the importance of effective coordination of such initiatives for Africa, and looking forward to the forthcoming report of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Underlining the fact that international cooperation based on a spirit of partnership and solidarity among all countries contributes to create an enabling environment so as to achieve the goals of social development,

Recognizing the urgent need to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to diversify their economies as well as enhance capacity-building and promote regional cooperation, and in this context noting the outcome of the Fourth

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[10] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[11] A/50/190-E/1995/.

[12] E/2001/83.

Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Public Service, held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, from 4 to 7 May 2003,

Recognizing also the serious challenges facing social development in Africa, in particular illiteracy, poverty and HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable diseases,

1. *Emphasizes* that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

2. *Recognizes* that while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development;

4. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen, inter alia, in a spirit of partnership, international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development and implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development[8] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world";[6]

5. *Reaffirms also* the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society for the achievement of social development;

6. *Welcomes* the New Partnership for Africa's Development[9] as a socio-economic programme of the African Union that embodies the vision and commitment of all African Governments and peoples;

7. *Welcomes also* the commitment of African countries and the African Union to peace, security, democracy, good governance, human rights and sound economic management, as well as their commitment to taking concrete measures to strengthen the mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution as embodied in the New Partnership, as an essential basis for sustainable development in Africa, welcomes further the role played by regional initiatives and bodies in this regard, and in this context welcomes the ongoing efforts of African countries to develop further the African peer review mechanism, which is an important and innovative feature of the New Partnership;

8. *Stresses* the need for renewed and political will at the national, regional and international levels to invest in people and their well-being so as to achieve the objectives of social development;

9. *Emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, transparent and accountable governance, and administration in all sectors of society, as well as effective participation by civil society, are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

10. *Emphasizes also* the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development to eradicate poverty in Africa and to place African countries, both

individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development, thus facilitating Africa's participation in the globalization process;

11. *Underlines* the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[5] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and the need for ensuring, in the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, their involvement in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national, regional and international levels;

12. *Emphasizes* the important role of regional and subregional initiatives and bodies in the process of the implementation of the programmes and initiatives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and calls for increased international support to enhance their capacities and strengthen regional integration;

13. *Welcomes with appreciation* actions already under way at the regional level to organize the activities of the United Nations system around thematic clusters covering the priority areas of the New Partnership, and in that regard urges the strengthening of that process as a means of enhancing the coordinated response of the United Nations system in support of the Partnership;

14. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the Partnership, based on the agreed clusters;

15. *Stresses*, in that context, the vital need for the United Nations to assist Member States to achieve the development objectives and targets of the United Nations Millennium Declaration[7] and to mainstream them in an integrated and coordinated manner in United Nations development activities;

16. *Recognizes* that illiteracy, poverty, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable diseases add challenges to Africa's development, and urges the international community to continue to increase its assistance to African countries in their efforts to address these challenges;

17. *Welcomes* the Maputo Declaration on the integration of the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in the African Union structures;

18. *Welcomes also* the entry into force of several institutions of the African Union foreseen in the Constitutive Act, notably the Pan-African Parliament, the Peace and Security Council and the African Court of Human and People's Rights, which will be essential for the promotion of social development and strengthening of democracy in Africa, and looks forward to the rapid entry into force of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council;

19. *Urges* the international community and the United Nations system to organize support for African countries in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in the new spirit of partnership;

20. *Invites* the international financial institutions to ensure that their support for Africa is compatible with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership in the new spirit of partnership;

21. *Urges* the United Nations system, in coordinating its activities at the national, regional and global levels, to foster a coherent response, including through close collaboration with bilateral donors, in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in response to the needs of individual countries within the larger framework of the New Partnership;

22. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to invite the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to its role in respect of system-wide coordination, to consider how to support the objectives contained in General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002;

23. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in his efforts to harmonize current initiatives on Africa, to enhance coordination between the United Nations and its specialized agencies, programmes and funds;

24. *Acknowledges* reflection by the Secretary-General of the social dimensions of the New Partnership in his report on the priority theme "National and international cooperation for social development" to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-first session[13] and invites him to continue to reflect those dimensions in future reports submitted to the Commission on its priority themes;

25. *Notes with satisfaction* the work in progress in the five clusters of United Nations agencies established by the United Nations system with a view to operationalizing the renewed interaction, collaboration and cooperation with Africa on the established clusters (infrastructure: water and sanitation, energy, transport, and information and communication technologies; governance, peace and security; agriculture, trade and market access; environment, population and urbanization; and human resources development, employment and HIV/AIDS);

26. *Acknowledges* the linkage between the work of the Committee of African Ministers of Public Service and the programmatic thrust of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

27. *Calls upon* the international development and continental development partners actively to support the governance and public administration programme of the Conference of Ministers of Public Service through the provision of critical resources and collaboration in building the capacity of local institutions and their staff to ensure sustainability into the future;

28. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and to consider the New Partnership during the discussions of its future priority themes at its forty-fourth session.

[13] E/CN.5/2003/5 and Corr.1.

Decision 43/102
Documents considered by the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session

The Commission for Social Development takes note of the following documents which were before it at its forty-third session:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of methods of work of the Commission;[14]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;[15]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2003 and 2004.[16]

[14] E/CN.5/2005/2.
[15] E/CN.5/2005/6.
[16] E/CN.5/2005/3.

Chapter II

Organizational matters: review of the methods of work of the Commission

1. The Commission considered the review of its methods of work under agenda item 2 at its 11th and 15th meetings, on 15 and 18 February 2005. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the methods of work of the Commission for Social Development (document E/CN.5/2005/2).

2. At the 11th meeting, on 15 February, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat made an introductory statement.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Jamaica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), and the observer for Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union).

Action taken by the Commission

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

4. At its 15th meeting, on 18 February, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development", which was circulated in an informal paper submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission recommended the draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution III).

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

6. At its 15th meeting, on 18 February, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the review of methods of work of the Commission for Social Development (E/CN.5/2005/2) (see chap. I, sect. E, decision 43/102).

Chapter III

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

1. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda (Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly) at its 2nd to 10th, 13th and 15th meetings, from 9 to 11 and on 14, 15, 17 and 18 February 2005.

Action taken by the Commission under agenda item 3 as a whole

Implementation of the social objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

2. At the 13th meeting, on 17 February, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the social objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development", which was circulated in an informal paper.

3. At the 15th meeting, on 18 February, the Commission had before it a revised text of the draft resolution, also circulated in an informal paper. Following statements by the representatives of South Africa (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and the United States of America, the Commission adopted the revised text of the draft resolution, as corrected during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. E, resolution 43/1).

A. Priority theme: review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (agenda item 3 (a))

4. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (a) at its 2nd to 7th, 9th and 15th meetings, from 9 to 11, 14 and 18 February 2005, including a series of high-level plenary meetings. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.5/2005/6);

(b) Statement submitted by the International Federation on Ageing, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/1);

(c) Statement submitted by Franciscans International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Dominican Leadership Conference, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation, Lutheran World Federation, and VIVAT International, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/3);

(d) Statement submitted by the Elizabeth Seton Federation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/4);

(e) Statement submitted by Franciscans International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; American Psychological Association, Pax Christi International, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, and World Youth Alliance, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, a non-governmental organization on the Roster (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/5);

(f) Statement submitted by AARP, Congregations of St. Joseph, Franciscans International, International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, and International Movement ATD Fourth World, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Christian Children's Fund, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Dominican Leadership Conference, Elizabeth Seton Federation, Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants, International Association of Charities, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation, Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, and VIVAT International, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/6);

(g) Statement submitted by International Movement ATD Fourth World, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Baha'i International Community, and Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/7);

(h) Statement submitted by Elizabeth Seton Federation and International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/8);

(i) Statement submitted by the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/9);

(j) Statement submitted by Congregations of Saint Joseph, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and School Sisters of Notre Dame, and Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/10);

(k) Statement submitted by Christian Children's Fund, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd and Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Friedrich Ebert Foundation, a non-governmental organization on the Roster (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/11);

(l) Statement submitted by International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/12);

(m) Statement submitted by the Foundation for the Rights of the Family, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/13);

(n) Statement submitted by the American Psychological Association, Center for Migration Studies of New York, Child Welfare League of America, Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America, International Council of Psychologists, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of Social Workers, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, and World Federation of the Ukrainian Women's Organizations, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/14);

(o) Statement submitted by International Movement ATD Fourth World, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/15);

(p) Statement submitted by HelpAge International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/16).

5. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 February, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs addressed the Commission.

6. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat made an introductory statement under the sub-item.

7. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Chairperson of the NGO Committee on Social Development made a statement on the outcome of the Civil Society Forum.

8. At the same meeting, the Commission held a panel discussion under the sub-item, followed by an interactive dialogue with the panellists. Presentations were made by Gerry Rodgers, Director of the Policy Integration Department, International Labour Organization; Mark W. Plant, Senior Adviser, Policy Development and Review Department, International Monetary Fund; and Ian Johnson, Vice-President, Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development, World Bank.

9. A summary of the panel discussion is contained in annex IV to the present report.

10. At the 3rd meeting, on 9 February, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development made a statement regarding the outcome of the International Forum for Social Development.

11. At the same meeting, the Commission heard presentations by, and held a panel discussion and interactive dialogue with, the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

12. A summary of the panel discussion is contained in annex V to the present report.

High-level plenary segment

13. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/58, the Commission convened high-level plenary meetings under sub-item 3 (a), which were open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and observers.

14. At the 4th meeting, on 10 February, the Chairman opened the high-level plenary segment.

15. The Deputy Secretary-General addressed the Commission.

16. At the 5th meeting, on 10 February, statements were made by: Marie-Josée Jacobs, Minister of Family and of Integration of Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union); Stafford Neil, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); Zola S. T. Skweyiya, Minister for Social Development of South Africa; Qiao Zonghuai, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China; Gholamali Khossro, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Legal and International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Hussain Yousif Al-Molla, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Housing of Qatar; Mikael Sjöberg, State Secretary, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden; Seamus Brennan, Minister for Social and Family Affairs of Ireland; Abderrahim Harouchi, Minister for Social Development, Solidarity and Family of Morocco; Samuel Pawironadi, Minister of Social Affairs and Housing of Suriname (on behalf of the Caribbean Community); Juli Minoves-Triquell, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Andorra; Tony Ianno, Minister of State (Families and Caregivers) of Canada; Ana María Romero-Lozada, Minister of Women and Social Development of Peru; Márcia Lopes, Deputy Minister for Social Development of Brazil; Paul Mangwana, Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare of Zimbabwe; Chris Pond, Employment Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Josefina Vazquez Mota, Minister for Social Development of Mexico; Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Minister of Social Development of Trinidad and Tobago; Amparo Valcarce García, Secretary of State for Social Services, Family and the Disabled of Spain; Riad Abukaraki, Minister for Social Development of Jordan; Samiollah Lauthan, Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity, Senior Citizen's Welfare and Reform Institution of Mauritius (on behalf of the South African Development Community).

17. At the 6th meeting, on 11 February, statements were made by: Nirupam Sen, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations; Aldo Mantovani, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations; Amina El Guindy, Minister of Insurance and Social Affairs of Egypt; Yasna Provoste, Minister of Planning and Cooperation of Chile; David Faiti, Minister of Economic Planning and Development of Malawi; Juma A. Kapuya, Minister for Labour, Youth Development and Sports of the United Republic of Tanzania; Eugenia Kistruga, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova; Sichan Siv, Representative to the Economic and Social Council at the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations; Ambrose Masalila, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Local Government of Botswana; Enrique Deibe, Secretary of Employment, Ministry

of Labour, Employment and Social Security of Argentina (on behalf of the Rio Group); Muhammad Humayun Farshori, Secretary, Planning and Development Division of Pakistan; Peter Maurer, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations; Baki Ilkin, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations; Bishop Giampaolo Crepaldi, Secretary of the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace, of the Holy See; Teruneh Zenna, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations; Susanto Sutoyo, Director General for Multilateral Economic, Financial and Development Affairs of Indonesia; Abdallah Baali, Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations.

18. At the 7th meeting, on 11 February, statements were made by: George W. Talbot, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Guyana to the United Nations; Anabella Lardé de Palomo, Under-Secretary of the Technical Presidential Office of El Salvador; Gulshara N. Abdykalikova, Vice-Minister of Labour and Social Development of Kazakhstan; Djibril Tangara, Minister for Social Development, Solidarity and Ageing of Mali; Chem Widhya, Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations; Vladimir Spidla, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equality of the European Community; Intisar Al-Wazir, Minister for Social Affairs of Palestine; Teodoras Medaiskis, Adviser to the Minister for Social Security and Labour of Lithuania; Musa Mohammed, Minister of Sports and Social Development of Nigeria; Fayssal Mekdad, Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations; Carlos Alvarado, Vice-Minister for Social Development of Venezuela; Orlando Requeijo Gual, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations; Kanda Vajrabhaya, Inspector-General, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand; Nino Žganec, Secretary-General for Social Welfare of Croatia; Olga Samarina, Deputy Director, Department of Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation; Ilgar Mammadov, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations; Shin Kak-Soo, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations; Mare Lo, Director of the Cabinet of the Ministry for Family, Social Development and National Solidarity of Senegal; Nana Effah-Apenteng, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations; Andrei Dapkiunas, Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations;. Shinichi Kitaoka, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations; Armen Martirosyan, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations; Md. Zulfiqur Rahman, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations; Mwelwa C. Musambachime, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations; Ahmed A. Own, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations.

19. At the 9th meeting, on 14 February, statements were made by: Kyi Tun, Deputy Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations; Kim Chang Guk, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations; Samir Shakir M. Sumaida'ie, Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations; Catherine Bakang Mbock, Minister for Social Affairs of Cameroon; Bayani S. Mercado, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations.

20. At the same meeting, statements were also made by: Djjankou Ndjonkou, representative to the United Nations and Director of the International Labour Organization; Gian Luigi Valenza, Minister Counsellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta; Eduardo A. Doryan, Special Representative of the World Bank to the United

Nations; Brigita Schmognerova, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe; the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; the Director of the New York Office of UNAIDS; Luca Dall'Oglio, Permanent Observer for the International Organization for Migration.

21. Also at the 9th meeting, observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also made statements: International Movement ATD Fourth World; International Chamber of Commerce (also on behalf of the International Organization of Employers); International Council on Social Welfare; International Federation of Associations of the Elderly; Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues; Triglav Circle.

Round tables

22. On 10 February, the Commission held three parallel high-level round-table discussions on the topics of eradication of poverty, promoting employment and fostering social integration.

23. At the 6th meeting, on 11 February, the chairpersons of the round tables reported to the Commission on their respective discussions. Subsequently, the Commission had before it conclusions from the chairpersons of the three round-table discussions, circulated in informal papers, which the Commission agreed to include in annexes to its final report. The conclusions by the chairpersons are contained in annexes I, II and III to the present report.

24. At its 6th meeting, the Commission also agreed to include in its final report a summary of the round-table discussions prepared by the Chairman of the Commission. The summary by the Chairman of the Commission is set out below:

> "1. Three high-level round tables were convened on 10 February 2005, each addressing one of the core issues of Copenhagen. The first, on eradication of poverty, was chaired by Ana Maria Romero-Lozada, Minister of Women and Social Development, Peru, and moderated by Professor Kaushik Basu of Cornell University. The second, on promoting full employment, was chaired by Aart-Jan de Geus, Minister for Social Affairs and Employment, the Netherlands, and moderated by Allan Larsson, Member of the High-level Panel, Youth Employment Network. The third, on fostering social integration, was chaired by Samiollah Lauthan, Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity, Senior Citizen's Welfare and Reform Institution, Mauritius, and moderated by Augusto Varas of the Ford Foundation, Chile. The following is a brief summary of the three round tables, including some proposals that emerged from the discussions.
>
> **Round table on eradication of poverty: summary of discussion**
>
> "2. Participants at the high-level round table on poverty eradication focused on three broad themes: the root causes of poverty; the comprehensive approach to poverty; and the international environment.
>
> "3. Consensus emerged that coordinated global and national action is needed in the fight against poverty and that to formulate effective poverty eradication strategies, the root causes of poverty had to be recognized and understood.

Among the wide-ranging root causes of poverty are: unequal distribution of assets; insecurity and vulnerability; and social exclusion and powerlessness.

"4. The persistence of inequalities in income, assets and opportunities exacerbate poverty and high unemployment rates and lack of access to productive resources, such as land, credit, market and information, further limit the productive capacity of the poor. Lack of access to basic services, such as education and health care, limit the opportunities available to the poor, while social exclusion and lack of voice prevent poor people from fully participating in decisions that affect their lives. The vulnerability and insecurity of poor people is magnified by weak social protection and exacerbated by long-term civil conflict and breakdown of the rule of law. Moreover, the HIV/AIDS pandemic confounds national efforts to eradicate poverty by depleting the labour force and diverting valuable resources away from economic and social development.

"5. Responding to the root causes of poverty requires the collective efforts of Governments, international organizations, civil society and other partners, with volunteerism and social mobilization serving as powerful partners in the fight against poverty. Participants shared their good practices, ranging from land reform to policies to promote sustainable livelihood and partnership with the private sector.

"6. Poverty reduction has received increased attention nationally and Governments have established goals and targets accordingly, with special emphasis on promoting agriculture and sustainable rural development; improving access to education and health, social protection and other social services; targeting the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; and promoting employment opportunities. Considerations of equity and equality need to be incorporated into all of these national strategies. Furthermore, empowering the poor, especially women, as they constitute the bulk of the poor, improving access to productive assets, reducing social exclusion and vulnerabilities of disadvantaged groups and ensuring gender equality perspective at all levels should be at the centre of a comprehensive approach to poverty.

"7. Participants stressed the essential role of creating productive employment, especially for young people, and generating adequate income in the effort to reduce poverty and recommended that employment constitute a key element of national poverty reduction strategies. In addition, the importance of better integration and strengthening the relationship between macroeconomic policies and social development goals was underscored.

"8. At the international level, participants recognized that poverty exists in both developed and developing countries and poverty eradication is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative that should be collectively addressed by the international community. The global commitment to eradicating poverty should be on a sustained basis and not just in response to financial emergencies or national calamities. This commitment can take the form of debt relief, innovative partnerships between regions and countries, including the consultations with the private sector, and the sharing of information and best practices for poverty eradication.

"9. Many Member States have instituted policies and laws that ensure government transparency and accountability. Participants agreed that while these steps are welcome at the national level, these good practices should also be reinforced at the regional and international levels, through the United Nations system and regional mechanisms, to ensure durable democratic practices that increase the political and economic participation of all segments of society.

"10. Some proposals were made by participants, including the following: create collective responsibility for poverty eradication at both the national and global levels; ensure that the comprehensive approach to poverty eradication as agreed to in Copenhagen forms the basis of the approach to address the Millennium Development Goal to halve poverty by 2015; integrate social and macroeconomic policies, as while economic growth is necessary, it is not sufficient for poverty eradication; take into account the gender dimension of poverty, particularly the feminization of poverty, when formulating strategies and policies for the eradication of poverty; intensify efforts to address the debilitating debt burden, particularly through debt cancellation, in order to allow countries to redirect their scarce resources to social expenditures; expand international and bilateral cooperation, including the transfer of technology and the sharing of experiences and good practices for poverty eradication; promote good governance and the rule of law in order to combat poverty successfully.

Round table on promoting full employment: summary of discussion

"11. Participants in the high-level round table on employment addressed three areas of concern: the economic potential of the world's growing labour force and how it can be viewed as a positive force; employment as the key to development and poverty reduction; and initiatives at the global and national levels that can make a difference in promoting full employment.

"12. Rather than viewing the increase in the world's growing labour force as a problem, participants focused on the strong potential that a dynamic work force can present for economic growth and poverty reduction. Particular attention thus should be paid to generating employment for young people, women, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities so as to encourage their potential and counter poverty, social exclusion and discrimination. Collecting statistics to better identify the most vulnerable groups would aid in this endeavour. The importance of strengthening the link between education and employment so that people become more 'trainable and employable', particularly for jobs in new and emerging sectors, was also mentioned. Transferring technology and know-how among countries could assist in this effort. Furthermore, calls were made to expand social protection programmes, primarily for those in less stable employment situations.

"13. The need to make employment the cornerstone of development was stressed by many participants, who also pointed out that the centrality of employment to poverty reduction has been lacking from international policy discussions, with the exception of the inclusion of youth employment in the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals. Promoting full and productive employment is a prerequisite for better and more equally

distributed income, growth and development, and expanding access to quality jobs is essential for achieving peace, stability and social cohesion. To this end, macroeconomic policies should incorporate employment creation as a key objective. Some participants further noted that the application of macroeconomic policies without measuring their social impacts has led to increased poverty and unemployment, even to the risk of social disintegration of many societies. With regard to financing employment initiatives, participants discussed, at the international level, re-examining official development assistance so that it is directed at employment promotion and, at the national level, rectifying the imbalance between taxation levels for labour and capital.

"14. Participants emphasized the importance of advancing global initiatives that strengthen policy coherence both nationally and internationally, especially with regard to the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions. On the international level, it was suggested that high-level inter-ministerial coordinating committees be established to implement strategic plans and actions on employment creation. It was further stated that globalization and international trade are closely linked to the employment situation in developing countries, with protectionist trade policies potentially leading to job losses, particularly in agriculture, and the actions of multinational corporations possibly compromising local labour standards. One delegation mentioned that, in some cases, significant progress in terms of employment creation had been made despite the imposition of punitive and discriminatory policies. Participants also raised the issue of unsustainable external debt faced by many developing countries and how debt servicing obligations undermine their ability to finance investment in human capital and infrastructure, thereby affecting economic growth and employment generation. The challenges posed by international migration were also raised, especially the need to develop a skills certification procedure to facilitate the employment of workers as they cross international borders.

"15. Finally, attention was called to developing national employment plans that support the promotion of full and productive employment, with special attention given to the informal economy, as it comprises the majority share of the labour force in many developing countries. The important role of the State, in both creating and expanding employment opportunities, was also highlighted.

"16. Some proposals were made by participants, including the following: strengthen the link between education and employment so that people become more 'trainable and employable', particularly for jobs in new and emerging sectors; transfer technology and know-how from country to country as a means for generating employment and fostering education and skills development; build upon the youth employment strategy contained in the Millennium Development Goals as a first step in strengthening and broadening the focus towards well coordinated employment-oriented development strategies; promote the development of quality jobs through respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity; create national employment plans which respect fundamental principles and rights at work, promote active labour markets and pay special attention to vulnerable groups; intensify efforts to 'formalize' the informal

economy, including initiatives to extend regulations and labour protections to informal workers, provide credit to small and microenterprises to build up their businesses and resolve property rights so that informal entrepreneurs can translate their assets into capital.

Round table on fostering social integration: summary of discussion

"17. The high-level round table on social integration recognized that although globalization can yield advantages and encourage social development, the differing pace across countries has led to greater social exclusion. Achieving a 'society for all' means all members of society should enjoy full and equal participation. Investing in social cohesion and social development was noted to be good and productive investment and not simply a cost.

"18. Participants noted that 10 years after Copenhagen, progress in implementing its commitments has been disappointing. The social integration component of social development appears to have lost ground and has not been fully integrated into the general discourse outside social development circles. The principle of solidarity among peoples, societies and nations has eroded. Focus on a people-centred approach, with equal opportunities for all, must be regained and policies must address the social and economic conditions of all people, particularly those in developing countries.

"19. It was agreed that it is essential to overcome the apparent rift between efforts to achieve the goals of the Millennium Development Goals and the broader Copenhagen commitments. The concept of social integration developed at Copenhagen should be mainstreamed into efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

"20. Participants discussed the need to eradicate poverty, noting that an integrated approach must be pursued to promote employment and reduce inequality. Employment, especially access to decent work, is vital for fostering social integration. It empowers individuals and fosters social inclusion. Education is also vital in providing people with the skills to participate in society and engage in productive employment and thus reduces prejudice. The education of girls is particularly important as it yields the highest return on investment in developing countries. Investment in health is also vital for social integration. Similarly, public health policy can directly influence social development, combat poverty and reduce social exclusion. It was noted that gender mainstreaming should be aggressively pursued and that women should be protected from discrimination, violence and disease.

"21. In many countries, groups with special needs are marginalized in the political process. Persons with disabilities, among others, require special focus. Their integration requires legal instruments to protect them from discrimination and ensure their rights and equal opportunities in society. Similar protections are required for immigrants, refugees and displaced persons. The needs of ageing populations were emphasized, particularly with regard to pensions. If changes are not made in current systems for financing pensions and long-term care, future generations of older persons may be left without adequate social protection. Despite facing tremendous pressures and undergoing significant changes, the family is essential for facilitating social inclusion.

"22. Participants emphasized the role of civil society in promoting a people-centred approach. Since they work directly with local people, civil society groups are often able to ensure that those who need support have access to it. The role of the private sector was also noted. However, Governments, civil society and the private sector all need mechanisms, networks and institutions through which to build consensus and improve collaboration.

"23. Some proposals were made by participants, including the following: ensure security, social justice, equal access to goods and services and equal treatment for all people; improve public administration, including democratic governance and the rule of law, and establish stable and transparent institutions that guarantee and respect human rights and freedoms, and allow for broad-based participation; improve Government coordination of ministries and departments and promote decentralization of authority to local governments, with allocation of sufficient resources; integrate economic and social goals and policies, rather than focus on economic goals alone, which may lead to greater social disparities, polarization and exclusion; ensure partnership and coordination with all stakeholders within the context of a Government-created regulatory framework for cooperation; recognize the role of the family and home environment for integrating and supporting vulnerable members and provide families with requisite resources, skills and knowledge; provide resources for continued investment in the social sectors, including increased development assistance, with particular attention to ensuring free and universal access to quality education that are amenable to attendance and participation of girls; encourage the private sector to make investments in social sectors and provide civil society organizations with support to carry out programmes; recognize the importance of volunteerism as a mechanism to develop social capital, support social integration and overcome social exclusion; foster improved international cooperation, including strengthening the Commission for Social Development, which remains the main place for all countries to come together to identify and share examples of good practices and policy approaches."

Action taken by the Commission at its high-level segment under agenda item 3 (a)

Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development

25. At its 7th meeting, on 11 February, the Commission had before it a draft text entitled "Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development" (E/CN.5/2005/L.2), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

26. At the same meeting, the Chairman corrected the text of the draft declaration orally. The Commission then adopted the draft declaration, as corrected, and agreed to transmit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the high-level event of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly on the review of the Millennium Declaration, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/58 (see chap. I, sect. A).

Other action taken under agenda item 3 (a)

Report of the Secretary-General on review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

27. At its 15th meeting, on 18 February, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.5/2005/6) (see chap. I, sect. E, decision 43/102).

B. Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

28. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (b) at its 8th to 10th, 13th and 15th meetings, on 14, 15, 17 and 18 February 2005. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development, on monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (E/CN.5/2005/5);

(b) Statement submitted by Associated Country Women of the World, European Union of Women, Foundation for the Rights of the Family, International Confederation of Christian Family Movements, International Kolping Society, Service and Research Foundation of Asia on Family and Culture, and SOS Kinderdorf International, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2005/NGO/2).

29. At the 8th meeting, on 14 February, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development, who also engaged in a dialogue with the representative of Mexico.

30. At the same meeting, the Commission held a panel discussion under the sub-item, followed by an interactive dialogue with the panellists. Presentations were made by the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development; João Salviano, bureau member of the European Youth Forum; Renata Florentino of Brazil Youth Voices; and Guido Schmidt-Traub, Policy Adviser at the Millennium Project.

31. A summary of the panel discussion is contained in annex VI to the present report.

32. At its 9th and 10th meetings, on 14 and 15 February, the Commission held a general discussion on agenda item 3 (b).

33. At the 9th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Switzerland, China, Japan, Argentina and Indonesia and by the observer for Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union).

34. At the 10th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Zambia, Tunisia, the Republic of Korea, Haiti, Bangladesh, Jamaica, Suriname and Mexico and by the observers for Kenya, Malawi, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Colombia and Cuba.

35. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the United Nations Volunteers.

36. Also at the 10th meeting, the observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies made a statement.

37. At the same meeting, observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also made statements: International Federation on Ageing; International Council of Psychologists (also on behalf of the American Psychological Organization); and HelpAge International.

38. At the 13th meeting, on 17 February, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development reported to the Commission on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/14.

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (b)

Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights

39. At the 13th meeting, on 17 February, the observer for Luxembourg,[1] on behalf of Austria, Belgium,[1] Bulgaria, Cyprus,[1] the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia,[1] Finland,[1] France, Germany, Greece,[1] Hungary,[1] Ireland,[1] Italy, Latvia,[1] Lithuania,[1] Luxembourg,[1] Malta, the Netherlands,[1] Poland,[1] Portugal,[1] Romania, Slovakia,[1] Slovenia,[1] Spain, Sweden[1] and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,[1] introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/2005/L.3), entitled "Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights" (subsequently issued in E/CN.5/2005/L.3), which read:

> "*The Economic and Social Council*,
>
> "*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which it established the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, 58/132 of 22 December 2003 and 59/198 of 20 December 2004,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 2002/26 of 24 July 2002 and 2004/15 of 21 July 2004 on further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and

[1] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

with persons with disabilities and protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities,

"*Encouraged* by the elaboration of a convention carried out in the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities,

"*Mindful* of the need to adopt and implement effective strategies and policies to promote the rights and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in economic, social, cultural and political life on the basis of equality in order to achieve a society for all,

"*Noting with satisfaction* that the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities play an increasingly important role in the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities,

"*Recalling* General Assembly decision 59/521 of 20 December 2004, whereby the Assembly decided to postpone consideration of the issue of the proposed supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities until its sixty-first session, at the latest, and requested the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development to take into account the general ideas contained in the proposed supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in the accomplishment of her mandate,

"1. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development, and takes note of her report;

"2. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to take practical action to create greater awareness and support for the further implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;

"3. *Invites* the relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights treaty bodies, within their respective mandates, and urges the regional commissions, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, to work closely with the United Nations programme on persons with disabilities to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including activities at the field level, by sharing knowledge, experiences, results and recommendations concerning persons with disabilities;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen and improve mechanisms for consultation, the exchange of information and coordination, as appropriate, and the active participation of the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and related organizations to further the implementation of the Standard Rules;

"5. *Encourages* Governments and the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to enhance cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities and other organizations concerned with disability issues in order to implement the Standard Rules in an effective and

coordinated manner, and invites multilateral development agencies to pay due attention to disability-related human rights issues in connection with the projects they fund;

"6. *Also encourages* Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability in order to support the activities of the Special Rapporteur as well as new and expanded initiatives to strengthen national capacities for equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities;

"7. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur through 31 December 2008 to further the promotion and monitoring of the Standard Rules in accordance with the provisions set down in section 4 of the Standard Rules, including the human rights dimensions of disability, while taking into account the general ideas contained in the proposed supplement to the Standard Rules in the accomplishment of her mandate;

"8. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to continue to participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities;

"9. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an annual report on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules to the Commission for Social Development."

40. At the 15th meeting, on 18 February, the observer for Luxembourg introduced revisions to the draft resolution, which were circulated in an informal paper.

41. Andorra,[1] Croatia,[1] Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova and Switzerland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as revised.

42. At the same meeting, the Commission recommended draft resolution E/CN.5/2005/L.3, as revised, for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution I).

Comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities

43. At the 13th meeting, on 17 February, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala,[1] Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, and Uruguay,[1] introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/2005/L.4), entitled "Comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities". Subsequently, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which the Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee, open to the participation of all Member States and observers of the United Nations, to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, based

on the holistic approach in the work carried out in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development,

"*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/14 of 21 July 2004 on a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

"*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 58/246 of 23 December 2003, in which the Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities should start negotiations on a draft convention at its third session,

"*Welcoming* the important contributions made so far to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee by all stakeholders,

"*Reaffirming* the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for their full enjoyment to be guaranteed to persons with disabilities, without discrimination,

"*Convinced* of the contribution that a convention can make in this regard, and encouraged by the increased support of the international community for such a convention,

"*Recognizing* the positive steps taken by Governments, including continued collaboration at the regional and international levels, to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

"1. *Welcomes* the important progress achieved so far in the negotiation of a draft convention, and invites Member States and observers to continue to participate actively and constructively in the Ad Hoc Committee, with a view to an early conclusion of a draft text of a convention in order to present it to the General Assembly, as a matter of priority, for adoption;

"2. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to contribute to the process of negotiation of a draft international convention, bearing in mind its area of expertise and experience in the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

"3. *Welcomes* the contributions of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission to the process of elaboration of a draft convention, and requests the Special Rapporteur to contribute further to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, drawing from her experience in the monitoring of the Standard Rules by, inter alia, providing her views on the elements to be considered in a draft international convention;

"4. *Requests* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through its Division for Social Policy and Development, to continue to support the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur and other relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, through, inter alia, the provision of information on issues related to a draft

international convention and the promotion of awareness of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, from within existing resources;

"5. *Underlines* the importance of strengthening cooperation and coordination between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in order to provide technical support to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/198 of 20 December 2004;

"6. *Invites* bodies, organs and entities of the United Nations system as well as non-governmental organizations, national disability and human rights institutions and independent experts with an interest in the matter to continue to participate in the Ad Hoc Committee and to contribute to its work;

"7. *Encourages* the relevant bodies of the United Nations to continue to promote and support the active participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, in accordance with General Assembly decision 56/510 of 23 July 2002 and Assembly resolution 57/229 of 18 December 2002;

"8. *Invites* Governments, civil society and the private sector to contribute to the voluntary fund established by the General Assembly to support the participation of non-governmental organizations and experts from developing countries, in particular from least developed countries, in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate widely to non-governmental organizations all available information on accreditation procedures, modalities and supportive measures for their participation in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, as well as the criteria for the financial assistance that is available through the voluntary fund;

"10. *Stresses* the need for additional efforts to ensure reasonable accessibility to facilities and documentation at the United Nations for all persons with disabilities, in accordance with General Assembly decision 56/474 of 23 July 2002;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur to report to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fourth session, on the implementation of the present resolution."

44. At the 15th meeting, on 18 February, the Secretary of the Commission read out a statement regarding programme budget implications relating to the draft resolution.

45. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico introduced a revised text of the draft resolution, which was circulated in an informal paper.

46. Algeria,[1] Argentina, Bolivia,[1] Brazil,[1] Burkina Faso,[1] the Central African Republic, China, Costa Rica,[1] Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba,[1] Ecuador,[1] Egypt,[1] Gabon, Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan,[1] the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi,[1] Mali, Morocco,[1] Nigeria,[1] Paraguay,[1] Peru, the Philippines,[1] the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Switzerland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as revised.

47. Also at the 15th meeting, the Commission recommended draft resolution E/CN.5/2005/L.4, as revised, for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution II).

Chapter IV
Programme questions and other matters

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 12th meeting on 16 February 2005. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2003 and 2004 (E/CN.5/2005/3);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/2005/4 and Add.1).

2. At the 12th meeting, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat made an introductory statement under sub-item 4 (a) and drew the attention of the Commission to an informal paper (E/CN.5/2005/WP.1) that had been circulated, regarding the proposed programme of work of the Commission for the biennium 2006-2007, under sub-item 4 (b).

3. Also at the 12th meeting, the Deputy Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development reported on the work of the Institute, under sub-item 4 (c).

Action taken by the Commission

Nomination of seven members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

4. At its 12th meeting, on 16 February, the Commission nominated, for confirmation by the Economic and Social Council, the following candidates to serve on the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development for a two-year term beginning on 1 July 2005 and expiring on 30 June 2007: Tony Atkinson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); Anna Hedborg (Sweden); Amina Mama (Nigeria); and Adele Smith Simmons (United States of America).

5. The Commission also nominated Christian Comeliau (Belgium/France) and Asma Jahangir (Pakistan) to serve on the Board of the Institute for a four-year term beginning on 1 July 2005 and expiring on 30 June 2009, subject to confirmation by the Economic and Social Council.

6. The Commission postponed the nomination of one candidate to the Board who would complete the term of office of a deceased member, Salma Sobhan (Bangladesh), for a term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Economic and Social Council and expiring on 30 June 2007 (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 43/101).

Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

7. At its 12th meeting, on 16 February, the Commission took note of the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2003 to 2004, which had been transmitted in a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2005/3) (see chap. I, sect. E, decision 43/102).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 15th meeting on 18 February 2005. It had before it the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fourth session of the Commission (E/CN.5/2005/L.5).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-fourth session (see chap. I, sect. C, draft decision).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-third session

1. At its 15th meeting, on 18 February 2005, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission with rapporteurial responsibilities, Octavian Stamate (Romania), introduced and corrected the draft report of the Commission on its forty-third session (E/CN.5/2005/L.6).

2. The Commission adopted the draft report, as corrected, and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of Argentina and the observers for the Netherlands, Cuba and Canada.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission for Social Development held its forty-third session at United Nations Headquarters on 20 February 2004 and from 9 to 18 February 2005. It held 15 meetings (1st to 15th), including a high-level segment open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and observers, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/58.

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of 46 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in document E/CN.5/2005/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

3. In subparagraph (c) of its decision 2002/210 of 13 February 2002, the Economic and Social Council decided that immediately following the closure of a regular session, the Commission for Social Development would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairman and other members of the Bureau. In pursuance of that decision, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation at its 1st meeting, on 20 February 2004:

Chairperson:
Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo (South Africa)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Paloma Durán (Spain)
Ewald Wensley Limon (Suriname)
Hossein Moeini Meybodi (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Octavian Stamate (Romania)

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 February 2005, the Commission was advised that Ms. Durán was unable to carry out her functions as Vice-Chairperson.

5. Consequently, the Commission elected Gerda Vogl (Austria) by acclamation as Vice-Chairperson to replace Ms. Durán.

6. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Commission designated Octavian Stamate (Romania) Vice-Chairman with rapporteurial responsibilities.

D. Agenda and organization of work

7. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 February, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.5/2005/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Priority theme: review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;
   (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
      (i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;
      (ii) World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;
      (iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
      (iv) Tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond.
4. Programme questions and other matters:
   (a) Programme performance and implementation for the biennium 2002-2003;
   (b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007;
   (c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.
5. Provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-third session.

8. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session, as contained in document E/CN.5/2005/L.1.

E. Documentation

9. The list of documents before the Commission at its forty-third session is contained in annex VII to the present report.

Annex I

Conclusions of the high-level round table on the eradication of poverty

Chairperson: Ms. Ana Maria **Romero-Lozada** (Minister of Women and Social Development, Peru)

Root causes of poverty

1. The participants agreed that the current level of global poverty could not be tolerated and that coordinated global and national action was needed in the fight against poverty. They recognized that it was necessary to identify the root causes of poverty in order to plan policy and poverty strategies. The wide-ranging root causes of poverty could be categorized into three broad groups: unequal distribution of assets; insecurity and vulnerability; and social exclusion and powerlessness. Besides identifying those root causes, it was also important to ask if the causes were indeed being appropriately addressed.

2. It was acknowledged that the persistence of high levels of inequality of income, assets and opportunities exacerbated poverty. High unemployment rates, a lack of access to productive resources such as land, credit, market and information limited the productive capacity of the poor. A lack of access to basic services, such as education and health care, resulted in limited opportunities for the poor. Vulnerability and insecurity among the poor was made worse by weak social protection programmes. In addition, long-term civil conflict and the breakdown of the rule of law put the poor at more risk. The poor suffered from social exclusion and powerlessness and were thereby unable to participate in decisions that affected their lives.

3. The response to the root causes of poverty should be not only at the level of individuals directly affected by poverty but should also be a collective responsibility of civil society, Governments and international organizations. Further, there was a need to establish a pace in dealing with poverty that was commensurate to the level of poverty. That involved translating the goals and aspirations of poverty strategies into costs needed to achieve them. An important aspect was to value volunteerism and social mobilization in poverty strategies.

4. Some of the good practices of Member States in tackling the root causes of poverty included the role of Governments in the redistribution of assets such as land reform, and in asset building. Policies that provided opportunities for sustainable livelihood, partnership with the private sector and the promotion of pro-poor growth were promoted. Consultations with the poor in planning policies and giving the poor a voice allowed for the wider participation of the poor in policy formulation.

Comprehensive approach to poverty

5. Most of the speakers underlined that, since the World Summit for Social Development, their Governments had given increased priority to poverty reduction through formulating and implementing national strategies for poverty eradication and establishing national goals and targets to reduce poverty. Special emphasis had been placed on promoting agriculture and sustainable rural development, improving access to education and health, social protection and other social services, targeting

the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and promoting employment opportunities. It was emphasized that equity and equality dimensions needed to be incorporated into national strategies and programmes to eradicate poverty. Furthermore, elements of national strategies should include empowering people living in poverty, especially women, improving access to productive assets and ensuring gender equality perspective at all levels. It was well-documented that households headed by women were more likely to be poor.

6. It was also noted that a low level of employment creation, especially among young people was a serious obstacle in reducing poverty. The creation of productive employment and the generation of adequate income needed to be seen as important elements of national poverty reduction strategies.

7. Several speakers highlighted the importance of the better integration of economic and social policies, especially through the relationship between macroeconomic policies and social development goals, including poverty eradication.

International environment

8. It was important to recognize that poverty existed in both developed and developing countries. Poverty eradication was an ethical, social, political and economic imperative and the world needed to assume collective responsibility for eradicating poverty. In the past, that collective responsibility had only been felt in times of emergency, such as in the aftermath of the financial crises of the past 15 years or in the aftermath of some natural calamity. However, it was necessary that the global commitment to address poverty be sustained over the long term. That commitment could take the form of relieving the debt burden of the poorest nations, innovative partnerships between regions and countries, and the sharing of information and best practices for poverty eradication. Consultation with the private sector might also be an integral part of the effective partnerships to alleviate poverty while stimulating more balanced growth across sectors. That international cooperation also created an environment conducive to more efficient implementation of poverty reduction strategies on the ground.

9. Many States had instituted policies and laws that ensured Government transparency and accountability. While those steps were welcome on the national level, such good practices should also be reinforced at the regional and international levels, through the United Nations system and the mechanism of regional bodies, to ensure durable democratic practices that increased the political and economic participation of all segments of society. Volunteerism had been an important resource for poverty eradication in many developing countries and could be successfully tapped by the demonstrated commitment of leaders at the local and national levels to the goal of poverty eradication and social development.

10. The following recommendations emerged from the discussion:

- There should be collective responsibility for poverty eradication both at the national and global levels.
- The comprehensive approach to poverty eradication as agreed to in Copenhagen should form the basis of the approach to address the Millennium Development Goal to halve poverty by 2015.

- Economic development was necessary but often not sufficient for poverty eradication and social policy should be integrated into macroeconomic policies.
- Strategies and policies for the eradication of poverty should take into account the gender dimension of poverty, particularly the feminization of poverty, and the fact that households headed by women tended to be significantly poorer than other households.
- Many countries still faced debilitating debt burdens and more effort should be made to address that issue, particularly through debt cancellation, in order to allow countries to redirect their scarce resources to social expenditures.
- Increased international and bilateral cooperation should be expanded, including the transfer of technology and the sharing of experiences and best practices for poverty eradication.

11. The promotion of good governance and the rule of law was often an essential precondition for successfully combating poverty.

Annex II

Conclusions of the high-level round table on promoting full employment

Chairperson: Mr. Aart-Jan **de Geus** (Minister for Social Affairs and Employment, the Netherlands)

1. Ten years ago, in Copenhagen, we committed ourselves to promoting full employment as a basic priority of our economic and social policies, and to enabling all men and women to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work.

2. The high-level round table on promoting full employment held its final meeting on 10 February 2005. It reviewed the implementation of commitment 3 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development on full employment. A lively, inspiring and thought-provoking exchange of views took place. Participants from all over the world shared the view that the promotion of full, productive and freely chosen employment should continue to form the centre of our social development strategies.

3. It is an honour for me, as Chairman of the round table, to present the following conclusions.

4. The high-level round table on promoting full employment recognized and recommended actions in four main areas.

Focus on the potential of the global labour force

5. The round table recognized the world's growing labour force as a strong potential for economic growth and poverty reduction, with young people constituting the overwhelming share of that potential.

6. The round table therefore recommended:

- To strengthen the link between education and employment, so that people became more "trainable and employable"
- To develop the skills potential of workers so that they could be qualified for jobs in new and emerging sectors.

Make employment the cornerstone for development

7. The round table recognized that providing decent jobs was the best way to get people out of poverty. Decent work was the engine of economic growth and a prerequisite for poverty eradication and fostering social integration. It also recognized that a large part of the world's unemployed were young people. In that regard it stressed that youth should be seen as an asset, not a problem. Youth employment should be a starting point for an international strategy on employment. The round table further recognized that full employment was a prerequisite for better and more equally distributed economic growth and development.

8. The round table therefore recommended:

- To build upon the youth employment strategy contained in the Millennium Development Goals, as a first step in strengthening and broadening the focus on employment-oriented development strategies
- To increase participation in the youth employment network, including through fostering partnerships
- To respect the fundamental labour standards of the International Labour Organization
- To transfer technology and expertise as a means for building employment and fostering education and skills development.

Global initiatives on enhancing full employment

9. The round table recognized the importance of advancing global initiatives that strengthened policy coherence both nationally and internationally, especially with regard to the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions. It also recognized that the centrality of employment to poverty reduction and development was lacking in international policy discussions: the overarching goal of full, productive and freely chosen employment, with full respect for core labour standards was currently absent from the Millennium Development Goals. It further recognized that globalization and international trade were closely linked to the employment situation in developing countries. Increased market access would lead to job creation, particularly in the agricultural sector. In the same vein, macroeconomic policies should incorporate employment creation as a key objective. The round table recognized the importance of the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization[a] and the recommendations contained therein.

10. The round table therefore recommended:

- To enhance inter-agency cooperation and coherence of policies. That was not only a challenge for the international organizations; the coherence of policies should also be enhanced at the national level. Member States should speak with one voice in international forums
- To promote full employment as a bridge between Copenhagen, the Millennium Development Goals, the International Labour Organization and the international financial institutions
- To incorporate the goal of decent work for everyone in the review of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals
- To strengthen the Commission for Social Development within the overall framework of United Nations reform.

Recognition and recommendations: develop national action plans

11. The round table recognized the need for national action to develop employment plans that supported the promotion of full, productive and freely chosen employment. That included special attention to the informal economy, which represented the majority share of the labour force in many developing countries.

12. The round table therefore recommended:

- To create national employment plans that fully respected fundamental principles and rights at work
- To intensify efforts to "formalize" the informal economy, including initiatives to extend regulations and labour protections to informal workers, as well as provide credit to small and microenterprises to build up their businesses.

13. I hope and trust that participants in the high-level round table on full employment will go home invigorated and inspired to continue to implement the commitments made at Copenhagen. It is at the national level that action is most needed. Each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development. National action plans on employment need to be developed and strengthened, with particular emphasis on specific groups, such as women and youth. Ten years after Copenhagen there is still a lot of work to be done.

Notes

[a] International Labour Organization, *A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All* (Geneva, 2004).

Annex III

Conclusions of the high-level round table on fostering social integration

Chairperson: Mr. Samiollah **Lauthan** (Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity, Senior Citizen's Welfare and Reform Institution, Mauritius)

1. While in most cases the goals of social integration are easily agreed, the means to achieve it have not received sufficient consideration. There should be greater coherence between principles and practice, and fostering social integration requires more effective social policies. How policies are formulated and implemented is as important as what they aim to achieve and can significantly affect their success. The challenge is to reinstate the concepts of social integration at the centre of all policies and to find practical ways and means to achieve a "society for all".

2. There is disappointment, 10 years after the World Summit for Social Development, at the extent to which commitments have been implemented. A return to a people-centred approach is required, with policies focused on improving the social and economic conditions of all people, particularly in developing countries. There is a sense of a rift between efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and implementation of the broader Copenhagen commitments. It is essential to overcome this rift, as the processes are essentially two sides of the same coin. The concepts of social integration developed at Copenhagen should be mainstreamed into efforts to achieve the goals.

Issues and concerns

3. Social integration is a prerequisite for social development. The concept of "being left out" is a recurring theme and a barrier to social development. Equality of opportunity is crucial to social integration and "a society for all". Achieving a society for all means ensuring that all members of society enjoy full and equal participation. Investing in social cohesion and social development is a good, solid and productive investment and not simply a cost.

4. Poverty must be eradicated. An integrated approach must be pursued where economic policies promote employment and reduce inequality. Employment is vital for fostering social integration and access to employment and decent work empowers individuals and leads to social inclusion. Discrimination in hiring leads to disenfranchisement and social exclusion.

5. Globalization provides advantages and encourages social development in some cases, yet has also led to greater social exclusion, as the pace of change and progress is different in different places and some workers have difficulties competing.

6. Education is vitally important in providing people with the skills to engage in productive employment and to participate in society, in reducing prejudice and discrimination and increasing tolerance. The education of girls is particularly important for social integration and yields the highest return on investment in developing countries. Benefits include wage gains for women, increases in national per capita income growth and healthier, better educated children. Several policies are conducive to increasing the enrolment of girls and improving their educational

level. It is therefore now a question of political will to introduce and implement these policies.

7. Achieving gender equality is fundamental for social development. Because of discrimination, women have less access to employment, education, health care and other services. Gender mainstreaming — which concerns the rights and responsibilities of both women and men — should be further developed and implemented, and women need to be fully protected against discrimination, violence and disease. Maternal mortality remains a pressing concern in developing countries. In these countries, young married women are increasingly infected by HIV/AIDS, mainly contracting the disease from their husbands.

8. In many countries, groups with special needs continue to be marginalized in the political process, although increasingly since the World Summit these groups don't wait to be included but insist on it.

9. Increasingly, older persons constitute large proportions of national populations and their numbers are rising worldwide. While older persons are increasingly active, the ageing of societies will have profound effects on social integration and social solidarity. Current systems for financing pensions and long-term care will prove unsustainable and future generations of older persons may not fare as well as today's older persons if changes are not introduced. Pension reform, on the agenda of many countries, may be particularly painful and could affect the intergenerational solidarity implicitly or explicitly reflected in political conflicts.

10. Ensuring the social integration of persons with disabilities requires legal instruments that protect them from discrimination while ensuring their rights and guaranteeing equal opportunities in society. It also includes creating an environment that respects their desire to stay with families and reside within the communities of their choice with the maximum possible independence.

11. The family, as a time-tested institution, is essential for facilitating social inclusion. Families, however, have faced tremendous pressures and undergone significant changes. The skills needed to sustain a family are not something that can be assumed — for example, it cannot be assumed that men and women know how to be parents.

12. Immigrants, refugees and displaced persons are often excluded. Legal protections and skills enhancement are important for their social inclusion and integration.

13. Public health policy can directly influence social development and combat poverty. Universal access to public health can also reduce social exclusion. Investments in health are therefore important for social integration and equality. At the same time, social policies and investments contribute to improving public health. Improvements in health conditions are not the result of medical interventions alone, but also involve improvements in social and environmental conditions.

14. Civil society is vital for social development, particularly in promoting a people-centred focus. Local civil society groups work directly with people who are excluded and in need, and are often able to ensure that those who need support have access to it and know where to get it. Therefore, greater attention should be given to civil society groups as partners in promoting social integration and social development. Civil society needs support to continue and improve the work it does.

Focus must be put on how the sector can be expanded and strengthened so that it is better able to participate and advocate and more effective in doing so.

15. Governments alone won't make the total difference and neither will civil society alone. They must therefore work together in partnership. Although the importance of civil society was greatly recognized at the World Summit and many Governments are working in partnership with non-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations, the relationship needs constant attention and continuous improvement. In particular, it is important to create mechanisms, networks and institutions through which Governments and civil society organizations can build consensus and improve their work together. The private sector is also an important partner for social integration and development, not only out of altruism and on humanitarian grounds but it is also in its direct interest that poverty is eliminated and vulnerable groups are integrated into mainstream societies.

Recommendations

16. Governments should ensure equal treatment for all people and equal access to goods and services for all. There may be a need for affirmative action to enable those people who have suffered from discrimination or exclusion to participate equally.

17. Fostering social integration requires ensuring security and social justice, access to social services and social protection, overcoming barriers and prejudice, teaching tolerance, combating discrimination and ensuring gender equality. It also requires:

- Improved public administration, including democratic governance and the rule of law, stable and transparent institutions that guarantee and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and allow and encourage broad-based participation. Policies should be based on a principle of non-discrimination. Social integration is cross-cutting and requires a holistic policy approach. Governments should improve coordination among ministries and departments in order to overcome sectorial approaches and competition so that governance structures become more flexible and responsive to current challenges. Decentralization of authority to local governments, with allocation of sufficient resources, is key to ensuring more participatory decision-making.

- Integrated economic and social goals and policies. There is still a tendency for many Governments to focus mainly on promoting economic growth, but if social concerns are left out, economic growth may actually lead to greater social disparities, polarization and exclusion.

- Partnership. The role of the State should continue to evolve. Policy development and implementation requires consultation with all stakeholders, based on healthy dialogue, partnership, respect and a long-term perspective. Governments should create the necessary regulatory framework for cooperation with civil society and other partners, including the private sector, so that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined. Governments should act as facilitators to strengthen civil society. Support should be given to the organizations that people create themselves and networks of these organizations should be strengthened.

- Recognition of the importance of the home environment for the care and well-being that it affords to family members. Families can serve to integrate and support vulnerable members, but they must have the resources, skills and knowledge to fulfil this function. The rights of all family members must be respected if families are to function effectively.

- Resources for continued investment in the social sectors. The private sector should be encouraged to make investments in social sectors. Civil society organizations also need support to carry out programmes.

- Provision of greater resources for girls' education, including ensuring free and universal access to quality education, community-based and supported schools that are "girl-friendly" with regard to sanitation facilities, female teachers and curriculums and provision of scholarships.

- Stressing the importance of volunteerism as a mechanism to develop social capital, support social integration and overcome social exclusion. Volunteering provides a way for people to develop social and vocational skills, to participate in society and to contribute to their own and their community's well-being. Such active participation and involvement develops a sense of ownership of development programmes so badly needed to achieve overall success.

- Improved international cooperation, including strengthening of the Commission for Social Development, which has done a good job in promoting and developing further the social integration consensus reached at Copenhagen. The Commission remains the essential place for all countries to come together to discuss these issues and its work and agenda on issues of social cohesion should be expanded and strengthened. It is important to identify examples of good practices and policy approaches so that these may be shared among all countries. This sharing of experiences is one positive aspect of intergovernmental cooperation.

- Increased development assistance for activities that promote social development.

18. It appears that the social integration component of social development has lost ground, that the goal has not been fully integrated into the general development discourse outside social development circles. The important principle of solidarity among peoples, societies and nations has eroded. We must all reconsider our fundamental commitment to the equality of every human being. While we accept the notion in principle, how do we live it in everyday life? Without an acceptance of the fundamental equality of every person, there is no basis for solidarity and no hope for social integration.

Annex IV

Summary of the panel discussion with the International Labour Organization, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund

1. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs welcomed the panellists and opened the discussion by stressing the importance of the link between economic and social policies. He pointed out that the recognition of that link was essential for building the capacity of economic systems to contribute to poverty alleviation and social development. He remarked that the manner in which social development was financed, especially in poorer countries, was central to achieving the objective of improving social conditions as highlighted in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development.

2. Following the introduction, statements were made by the Vice-President of Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development of the World Bank; the Director of the Policy Integration Department of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Senior Adviser of the Policy Development and Review Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Presentations

3. The representative of the World Bank noted the importance of the social dimensions of development, adding that failure to deal with them could foil efforts at sustainable development. Inspired in large part by the goals of the Copenhagen Declaration, the World Bank had become more sensitive to the social dimensions of development. Particular progress had been made in four areas. First, there was greater recognition by the Bank of the need to embed social policy within economic policy as a way of fostering overall development. As a result, the Bank since 1999 had provided most of its assistance to countries within the context of poverty reduction strategies, which recognized the links between economic and social policies. In addition, the Bank's analytical work paid substantial attention to social development issues. Second, the Bank recognized that a pro-poor approach to economic growth was essential. It had therefore fostered community-centred development, which had become a dominant aspect of the Bank's assistance to countries. Third, given the importance assigned in the Millennium Development Goals to health and education, the Bank had moved to expand its lending to those sectors to about 25 per cent of its total annual lending. The World Bank considered the particular needs of Africa as a priority in its lending. Africa currently receives the bulk of the Bank's no-interest loans, which it offered through the International Development Association.

4. The representative of ILO noted that ILO had been fully engaged with the World Summit for Social Development from the beginning. He stated that the Copenhagen Declaration had helped to set the direction of ILO work, in part because each of the commitments made in Copenhagen had a bearing on ILO concerns. By the time of the 2000 special session of the General Assembly, there was evidence that progress towards meeting the Summit's goals was slow and the global picture with respect to employment, in particular, was wanting. The special session had turned to ILO for leadership in developing a coherent international

strategy on employment. He added that, unfortunately, the momentum created by the special session to tackle global employment challenges was insufficiently echoed and developed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. ILO had nevertheless responded to the challenges with respect to employment in several ways. Within the context of a global employment agenda, ILO had developed a decent work agenda, which emphasized employment, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue. ILO had also put more emphasis on ensuring that employment and decent work goals were incorporated both in the formal and informal sectors and in poverty reduction strategies. An important contribution of ILO was its establishment of an independent World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, whose report had been issued in 2004.[a] The report emphasized the immense potential of globalization to improve social welfare and the ways in which Governments, business, labour, parliamentarians, civil society and the international community could all work towards promoting a more inclusive globalization. In the follow-up to the Commission's findings, ILO had initiated a policy coherence initiative among multilateral organizations to develop better policies to promote sustainable growth, investment and employment.

5. The representative of IMF began by noting the scepticism during the 1990s about the role of IMF in social development. There was a contention at the time, he noted, that the Fund should cede its role in social development to the World Bank and instead focus on macroeconomic policy and reform. IMF, however, had rejected that view in favour of an approach that took into account social aspects in macroeconomic development. In that regard, IMF worked with its partners to ensure that the social dimensions of development were addressed at the macroeconomic level. That focus of IMF had led it to make substantial changes in a number of areas of work. For example, at the field level, the focus had been on poverty reduction strategies and how macroeconomic policies affected social development. In that regard, IMF's lending had become more linked to the poverty reduction strategy of individual countries. At headquarters, poverty reduction and pro-poor growth were issues of major concern. An important question in that regard was what forms of budgetary allocations were needed to achieve pro-poor growth without diminishing macroeconomic performance. IMF had also made major strides in the area of donor coordination to ensure that the Fund's programmes did not disrupt donor involvement and continuity. In that connection, it had also strengthened its collaboration with other international organizations and with non-governmental organizations, labour unions and central statistical offices.

Discussion

6. A number of participants discussed poverty and poverty eradication initiatives. In response to a question on good practices to ensure that the poor benefited from social development, the representative of the World Bank emphasized the importance of country-specific poverty reduction strategies and the importance of community participation in development projects. In addition, he echoed the Chairman's comments on the linkages between social, environmental and economic issues, remarking that although poverty had a critical economic aspect, a more holistic view should take environmental and social issues into account. Several questions were raised about the IMF policy recommendations and their effects on poor countries and their efforts to combat poverty. The IMF representative replied by emphasizing the priority focus of his organization on economic stabilization.

That, he said, was one of the essential preconditions for sustained economic growth and poverty reduction. He added that although progress had been made in recent decades towards increased stabilization, it had often failed to generate rapid growth.

7. On the subject of growth, the moderator, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, mentioned ongoing debates on growth and poverty and whether the term pro-poor growth was redundant, since growth would always benefit the poor to some extent. He also wondered whether pro-poor growth should be associated with decreasing inequality. The representative of the World Bank added that although growth usually had some positive impact on the poor, it was important to ensure that growth be sustainable and its benefits be redistributed for such sectors as education and health.

8. The ILO representative, responding to questions on the interdependency of global economic relations and on realizing full employment, stressed that the goals of employment creation and decent work needed to be placed at the heart of economic and social policies. Citing the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization and its recommendations for a policy coherence initiative to develop better global policies to promote growth, investment and employment, he emphasized that despite some negative recent trends, globalization could be a positive force for the creation of decent work. The goal of full employment was possible, but only if all relevant actors took responsibility for full employment. Concern was expressed over the high levels of unemployment among young people, especially young women. The establishment of the Youth Employment Network and its recommendations for addressing that situation were recognized.

9. The effects of international migration on labour markets were of concern to several participants. Several speakers mentioned the growing recognition of international migration as a central issue on the global agenda and the need for global, regional and bilateral frameworks. The "brain drain" from developing countries, which had resulted from the free movement of skilled labour while the movement of unskilled labour remained restricted, had led to increased inequalities between countries and regions. Concern was also expressed that the increased flow of remittances, although a valuable source of income for many developing countries, might become a justification for donors to withdraw or limit aid to developing countries.

10. The Under-Secretary-General pointed to the relationship between globalization and risk. Globalization had increased the risks borne by countries (e.g., macroeconomic risk through financial volatility) and individuals (e.g., through the privatization of socialized risks, as in the case of the privatization of pensions, which had been witnessed in Latin America in the recent past). He posed the question of what possibilities there were for a better sharing of those risks.

11. The ILO representative commented that shifts in the patterns of production and trade, as in the case of outsourcing, were creating new winners and losers and that 80 per cent of the global population had no access to social protection. The representative of the World Bank expanded on the idea of risk and vulnerability, adding issues such as environmental and health risks and how those cut across countries. Those issues called for public and private policy responses at both the national and international levels.

12. Concern was expressed over the narrow economic definition of development inherent in the Millennium Development Goals, which omitted the consideration of human rights. Replying to a question on the Global Compact Initiative and its potential contribution to alleviating employment inequality, the Under-Secretary-General pointed out that the Global Compact Initiative was primarily a mechanism to promote corporate responsibility in several agreed areas. With regard to research on social development, concern was expressed that the increased tendency for such research to be funded from private rather than public sources could have a negative impact on the nature and volume of research output.

Notes

[*] International Labour Organization, *A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All* (Geneva, 2004).

Annex V

Summary of the panel discussion with the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions

1. The panel discussion with the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions on a regional perspective on the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development, focused on the issues of poverty, employment and social integration. Mixed progress was reported by all of the commissions and many of the same constraints facing the regions that were present at the time the World Summit for Social Development took place continue to prevail.

Presentations and discussion

2. The Executive Director of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) reported that in sub-Saharan Africa, poverty had continued to rise and over one third of the population was undernourished. There had been a net addition of more than 63 million people to the ranks of the poor. Unemployment on the continent was extremely high and underemployment was rampant, affecting 40 per cent of the labour force.

3. He reported that progress had been made on the issue of social integration, which had been attributed to the growth of democracy and a notable improvement in governance throughout the region. While it was acknowledged that conflict continued to be a major disruptive factor, the African Union had had important achievements in conflict resolution and progress in the areas of civil society organization and gender equality.

4. The challenges to progress listed by ECA were low growth, persistent poverty, weak governance and institutional capacity, the social and economic disruption resulting from conflict, and shortfalls in health and educational services. Further constraints noted were inadequate financial resources and weak human and institutional capacity. He underlined the fact that the New Partnership for Africa's Development would be instrumental in providing a framework to address those challenges and allow Africans to take ownership of the development process.

5. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) noted the major challenges facing the less advanced economies and the emerging market economies in Europe. Less advanced economies were facing massive poverty and increasing inequality since the reforms of the late 1980s. Quality and access to health care were also inadequate, with a temporary increase of death rates, a decrease in life expectancy, a decline in fertility and the rapid spread of infectious diseases.

6. Major trends of the emerging market economies were noted, such as high and increasing unemployment and low employment rates. Disparities in income were growing quickly within some countries and urban-rural inequalities and regional inequalities in gross domestic product per capita were deepening. Education, social and pension reforms had led to a deterioration of the immediate social situation of the majority of the population.

7. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) noted an overall lack of social progress in the region since

the World Summit. While poverty rates had decreased slightly in recent years, the total number of poor had risen substantially. Urban unemployment and informal employment had increased and the number of those employed in the formal economy had been decreasing since 1990. Workers without social protection now comprised the vast majority of the urban labour force.

8. He indicated further that persistence of income concentration and employment constraints threatened social integration by segmenting society, reducing social protection and participation of the poor in the development process. Disruptive processes, such as risky and violent behaviour among youth, had emerged as growing obstacles in the labour market and difficulties in achieving social mobility grew.

9. On a positive note, ECLAC noted that Governments had increased the levels of public social expenditures, which had contributed to alleviating somewhat the special needs of the poor and most vulnerable groups. Similarly, significant progress had been made in the implementation of policies for reversing discrimination against women and against indigenous and Afro-descendant groups, but sharp disparities still prevailed.

10. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) reported that efforts to eliminate poverty had produced mixed results. While some areas had reported progress, implementing national poverty reduction strategies into effective policies would be needed in areas where the situation had deteriorated.

11. In the area of employment, the issue of female international migration was highlighted. While female unemployment rates were higher than that of males, youth unemployment was greater than that of adults. He further noted that the Asia-Pacific region housed 70 per cent of the illiterate population of the world (600 million persons), and 65 per cent of those were women.

12. Insofar as social integration was concerned, comprehensive social development programmes were being formulated and laws were being revised vis-à-vis vulnerable groups, and institutional arrangements for social development were being established with time-bound targets to ensure cost-efficiency and maximum impact.

13. He underlined the great devastation in human and economic terms that the recent tsunami had brought to the region. A framework of action had been presented, which included the development of an early warning system, the building of infrastructure to reduce vulnerabilities and the expansion of financial assistance.

14. The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) reported that efforts to create an enabling environment for social development included governance and democracy projects and numerous community development undertakings. In the area of poverty alleviation, progress had been made in the preparation of technical studies on the measurement, characteristics and determinants of poverty, as well as the development of policy tools necessary for poverty reduction.

15. She reported that, with a view towards full employment, technical studies had been conducted focusing on the effects of globalization, the creation of employment opportunities among the rural population and the promotion of new technologies. In

the area of social integration, activities to improve the situation of vulnerable groups had included implementing field projects, preparing studies and organizing seminars and training workshops to strengthen community self-reliance. In addition to encouraging policy makers and donors to increase resources allotted for social development, studies were also being prepared to improve access to education and primary health care.

16. Following those presentations, an exchange took place between the Executive Secretaries and the Commission. The Executive Secretaries elaborated further on their plans of implementing policies of gender mainstreaming, addressing growing demographical imbalances and how to improve coordination between the regional commissions and actors in civil society. The issue of violence and youth was also raised, as well as the question of how best to face the challenge of gathering reliable data.

Recommendations

17. For ECA, in order to advance social development priorities, lessons learned in the poverty reduction strategies must be applied. Employment policy and the promotion of better governance could be achieved through research and advocacy. The importance of gender mainstreaming and tackling HIV/AIDS was also important.

18. Recommendations for the less advanced economies of ECE included the promotion of policies that created pro-poor growth and the implementation of reforms that provided effective social protection for all. To redress current challenges in employment and in wage and income distribution, attention must be placed on the non-observed economy, as it did not provide social protection and deepened, among others, gender inequalities. For the emerging market economies, correcting market failures and integration of policies (education, housing, among others) were needed to increase employment opportunities.

19. For ECLAC, it was necessary to increase the level of high-quality employment and social protection and to reduce income inequality and social disparities. Building human capital among low income groups and maintaining growth trends in social expenditures would also be essential to uphold the commitments made at Copenhagen.

20. Looking forward, in the ESCAP region there were pertinent issues that deserved further attention, such as poverty, migration, ageing, gender disabilities, HIV/AIDS and other contagious diseases. Additionally, in anticipating the longer-term effects of the tsunami, the needs of vulnerable groups in the area of health and development must be attended to and close cooperation with relevant bodies would be needed to assist in the recovery.

21. In the ESCWA region, national, regional and international efforts to achieve social development goals must be interlinked. On an international level, political, financial and technical support were a prerequisite to overcoming challenges in the region. Promoting an environment free of war and instability was necessary to facilitate such support.

Annex VI

Summary of the panel discussion entitled "Working with young people on common goals"

1. In its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, the General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth, making commitments to develop policies and programmes for youth development to the year 2000 and beyond. Young people worldwide are involved in consultative activities to evaluate the progress achieved in 10 years. Two consultative meetings were organized by the Secretariat with representatives of youth organizations, one in Coimbra, Portugal, from 31 January to 3 February 2005, and the other in New York from 14 to 17 February 2005.

2. The panel discussion that took place in New York during the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development highlighted the youth development agenda of the World Programme of Action for Youth as well as its linkages to the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed targets.

Presentations

3. The Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat presented the main findings of the Secretary-General in the World Youth Report 2005 and his recommendations to the General Assembly (A/60/61-E/2005/7). While some progress had been achieved in a number of the priority areas, the report demonstrated that the current generation of young people were facing ever more complex challenges. The report recommended a need for intensified commitment and investment in the child-focused Millennium Development Goals, which would have enormous benefits for the young people in 2015. Governments should see young people as partners in achieving those goals. To formulate better policies and to evaluate progress achieved, a set of verifiable indicators should be developed. At its sixtieth session, the General Assembly might consider requesting the Secretariat to develop a suitable set of indicators, which could be used by Governments and other actors to measure progress achieved by 2015.

4. João Salviano (bureau member, European Youth Forum) said that he had participated in the consultative meeting held in Coimbra, Portugal. He presented some of the views and recommendations that were put forward by the youth representatives during that meeting, including the need for inter-agency collaboration in the United Nations on youth-related issues coordinated by the Programme on Youth. National action plans for youth should be established in order to develop strategies on how to implement the priorities agreed upon at the national level. For that to work, it was advisable that Governments encouraged the creation of autonomous and independent national youth councils. The Coimbra meeting had reaffirmed the need for more youth representatives to be involved in activities of the United Nations system and suggested creating a method of co-management between youth non-governmental organizations and the United Nations.

5. Renata Florentino (Co-coordinator, Brazil Youth Voices) participated in the consultative meeting held in New York. She presented her work at the national level on evaluating the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, using the "Making Commitments Matter" toolkit produced by the Division for

Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. She highlighted the establishment of an interministerial group for youth and the convening of the first National Conference on Youth, which brought together 4,000 young people. She also informed the Commission about the work currently under way in Brazil to establish a national youth secretariat and a national youth council. She mentioned her concern about the lack of data specifically focusing on youth; such data was imperative to policy planning and formulation. Furthermore, she emphasized the need for greater civil society participation. Young people should be major partners for development. In Brazil, United Nations offices worked with civil society and the Government on various youth issues. The office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization had created a youth development index, which was comparable to the human development index. The World Bank had moderated a dialogue between the Government and youth organizations. Brazil was a lead country of the Youth Employment Network, in which employers, employees and youth organizations participate as real partners. The office of the United Nations Development Programme in Brazil was planning a youth leadership summit to mobilize young people to get involved in the Millennium Development Goals.

6. Guido Schmidt-Traub (Policy Adviser for the Millennium Project) presented some of the implementation strategies required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, with particular emphasis on the need to engage social groups, such as youth. The agenda of the World Programme of Action for Youth fit the agenda of the goals. He highlighted those issues embodied in the goals that aimed to improve the global situation of young people, such as the important focus on education. Besides a focus on primary education, secondary and tertiary education should be addressed. Governments should be bold and pro-active to achieve the goals. Poverty reduction strategy papers should be in line with achieving the goals. Civil society in general and youth organizations in particular had an important role to play. Developed countries should fulfil commitments to make resources available. Furthermore, there was a need for more investment in better data collection, while data should be disaggregated by gender and age. There was a lack of trained professionals in various fields needed to scale up development. The year 2005 might be considered a "make or break" year regarding the implementation of the goals and establishment of a global partnership for social development.

Discussion

7. During the discussion that followed the presentations, speakers addressed a number of pertinent issues. One delegate asked which issues Governments should address on a priority basis to promote youth development. Mr. Salviano responded that, although youth issues would differ in each country, education was a priority area to all. The important thing for Governments was to collaborate with youth organizations to set their national youth development agenda.

8. Another delegate acknowledged the importance of the Millennium Development Goals, but also drew attention to the commitments made by Governments during other world conferences and summits. Regarding the five new priority areas, attention should also go to youth affected by natural disasters. Mr. Salviano explained the perspective of the participants to the Coimbra meeting on the five new priority areas. Globalization and its social impact was identified as a cross-cutting issue that should not be mentioned separately, but in relationship to all

priority areas. Volunteerism was identified as a priority issue by itself that should be added to the list.

9. Participants also wished to receive more information on how decisions would be made regarding indicators to measure progress. Mr. Schmidt-Traub stated that the discussion on indicators was ongoing, although the general consensus currently was that the list should not be extended much further. The Millennium Project encouraged Governments to set national goals and adjust data collection accordingly.

10. The issue of the globalization of the media was raised, with images and messages that exposed many young people to consumption patterns unaffordable to them. The Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development responded that in certain cases, the messages popularized by the media were not necessarily positive, but there were no simplified solutions in that area. For instance, real progress had been made by banning the advertisement of alcohol and tobacco. Mr. Schmidt-Traub added that the media could be constructive and referred to the emerging discussion on international development in the media as positive. Mr. Salviano added that the media should assist in spreading the voices of youth.

11. Another participant addressed the link between youth at risk and the family. She referred to research that young people growing up in a family with both a mother and father were less likely to engage in risky behaviour and would do better in school. Mr. Salviano responded that it was more important to look at how the family could be involved in youth development, no matter how it was composed. The Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development added that Governments could not create family structures for people. They should focus on how best to assist young people in existing situations.

12. Various participants raised questions on youth employment. One asked the panel how to address the problem of youth unemployment, especially among women. Another raised the need to include the private sector in youth employment strategies. A third mentioned various projects running in his country that involved young people in unpaid and paid unemployment. His Government, for example, had established a national promotion fund to sponsor and support youth employment. Ms. Florentino stated that youth could create their own jobs and asked the Governments to be supportive in that regard. The Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development said that one of the focuses of the Youth Employment Network was to develop entrepreneurship. Governments should assist young people in starting up their own businesses. Mr. Schmidt-Traub said that youth unemployment and the involvement of the private sector were interlinked and Governments should strive to create conditions for greater job creation, including addressing such issues as the rule of law, property rights and infrastructure.

13. One participant stated that the issue of the positive potential of young people was somewhat missing in the presentations. Volunteerism offers an opportunity for youth to contribute to society. He expressed concern with the term "youth at risk". Being young did not necessarily mean being in a dangerous period in life; rather, it was a very exciting period of growth into independence.

14. One participant stressed the importance of information and communication technologies for youth and their competitiveness in the global market. Mr. Schmidt-Traub agreed that international communication technologies were

critical to national development. Without access to international communication technologies it was difficult to participate in the global economy and it was more difficult to deliver services to people, including health services. Governments should support greater investment in new technologies, including through greater private investment.

15. One participant observed that all panellists stressed the need for a dialogue between Governments and civil society. In his country, youth were directly involved in the Government: the Minister for Youth Affairs was only 27 years old. Young people were highly represented in the national and local governing bodies. The national youth council was involved in policy making from conceptualization to implementation. Ms. Florentino provided examples of how young people could be partners for development. Young people could be involved in training for capacity-building, in projects on the ground and in local youth councils. Mr. Salviano stated that through non-formal education, young people could help to raise awareness among their peers about issues of importance. "If you give young people the opportunity to participate, they will grab it," he said.

Annex VII

List of documents before the Commission at its forty-third session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.5/2005/1	2	Provisional annotated agenda
E/CN.5/2005/2	2	Report of the Secretary-General on the review of methods of work of the Commission for Social Development
E/CN.5/2005/3	4 (c)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2003 and 2004
E/CN.5/2005/4 and Add.1	4 (c)	Note by the Secretary-General on nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
E/CN.5/2005/5	3 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities
E/CN.5/2005/6	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
E/CN.5/2005/L.1	2	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the session
E/CN.5/2005/L.2	3 (a)	Draft declaration entitled "Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development"
E/CN.5/2005/L.3	3 (b)	Draft resolution entitled "Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights"
E/CN.5/2005/L.4	3 (b)	Draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities"
E/CN.5/2005/L.5	5	Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fourth session of the Commission
E/CN.5/2005/L.6	6	Draft report of the Commission on its forty-third session
E/CN.5/2005/NGO/1-16	3	Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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